

## CONSERVATION CONTEST WINNERS

AWARD	NAME	SUGGESTION
Cabin - 2 night Stay	<b>Lynn Abraham</b>	Low flow shower heads, toilets and sinks in campground facilities. Also, motion activated sink faucets that shut off with no activity. Tank-less water heaters for bath facilities and cabins. Native plants around camping facilities. Organic or natural non-toxic cleaning products, recycled paper products in bath facilities. Ceiling fans in cabins to reduce ac/heat use. Energy Star appliances in cabins
Cabin - 2 night Stay	<b>Karen G. Brown</b>	Contact local high schools. Ask them to have them about having the students as part of their science programs to include volunteering to work for a certain amount of time in their state parks as extra credit. This could also be included on college resumes for service to their communities, and would give extra hands in getting the much needed help for our state parks.
Camping - 1 Week	<b>Rebecca Adcock</b>	Pick a spot in the park that you usually have to mow and allow it to go back to natural meadowland area. Save on gas and emissions and get a new ecosystem to do nature talks with. When repairing park benches and amphitheatres, replace them with material made from recycled milk jugs. They will last longer than wood. On Earth Day, Arbor Day and other eco-friendly days, offer free admission to allow the general public to learn to appreciate state parks and come back when they have to pay. Work on making public areas no waste zones. In pool areas around park concession stands. Have recycle bins, paper bins and food bins. Use items that can be recycled for selling items; paper plates and such. Start composting food scraps to use for mulch and fertilizer for flowerbeds and trees. Install timer lights in public restrooms. Set the timer for maximum of 15 minutes and it goes off automatically or use motion sensor lights in park restrooms. If you have paper towels in park restrooms, then have a recycle bin for those.
Camping - 1 Week	<b>Rebecca Wentworth</b>	Provide clothes lines and/or clothespins (even at a small fee). Have clothes lines installed at certain campsites. Use those campsites for guests who will be staying longer than a weekend. Many times I've stayed for a week and had to wash clothes. I had to use the dryer because we didn't bring a long enough line to dry our clothes. I would have much rather have used a clothesline instead of the dryer. One, for the environment. Two, the clothes smell so much better after hanging on the line. Even if a clothesline is provided to use between two sites...I would use it! Install motion lighting in the bathrooms. Having a dusk to dawn light on the outside of the bathrooms are fine. But using motion detection lighting will cut down considerably on electricity. It will be off when no one is in there and only come on when a person enters the room.
Annual Pass	<b>Dominique Ackley</b>	I saw the information about the contest and thought of a suggestion that you may not be utilizing at this point. I'm not certain it is contest worthy or not, but still an important consideration in the daily work of all of our state parks. This suggestion is regarding cleaning products. Bath houses, cabins, stores, offices, etc. within our state parks all need to be cleaned regularly. Recently, while looking for greener alternatives for my family, I have been researching the safety of the cleaning products we use in our home. Among countless websites, magazines, and books I have learned that most cleaning products are harmful to our waters (including our beautiful Chesapeake Bay) and our environment. Bleach, detergents, and multipurpose products have loads of questionable chemicals derived in a laboratory and then shipped directly to my kitchen sink and down the drain they go. Since my education I have made some drastic changes in my home with very simple products. All you really need to clean is.....baking soda and vinegar. The properties of each allow for a multitude of cleaning jobs with just these products. There are other simple solutions as well, such as lemon juice, vodka (that wouldn't go over well in a state facility!) salt, borax, and more, but vinegar and baking soda could handle the jobs of cleaning bathrooms, windows, etc. I have to wonder if the types of cleaning products being used at our state facilities have been considered? I wouldn't even know how to find out!
Annual Pass	<b>Carla Mosely</b>	I stayed in one of your cabins in Tin Lakes State Park and I noticed that the cabins that were not reserved had the outside porch light and an interior light kept on. I didn't notice a light timer in our cabin so I assume that none of the cabins have timers. As leaving the cabins lit at night is obviously for safety reasons, my suggestion is to use timers so that the lights will turn off during daylight hours. And perhaps the porch lights can be the type of lights that are on a power-cell or solar powered and can turn off by themselves during daylight hours as well.
Monopoly Game	<b>Diana Devore</b>	Have a week (or several weeks throughout the year) during which volunteers can stay in a park while cleaning the site, repairing facilities as needed, studying the impact of people on plants and animals, and taking care of other projects as needed.

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Monopoly Game	<b>Angela Newburn</b>	1.At the campgrounds you should provide a composting barrel/station for campers and their bio-degradable. 2.Print the VA State Park catalog on recycled paper with bleach free ink--and print that on it to demonstrate your environmental responsibility.
T-Shirt	<b>Cindy Adams</b>	One suggestion I have, not just for Park facilities is this: When I need hot water and sometimes have to wait for it to warm up, I catch the other water and re-use it for pet water or to wash my hands, etc. I think every little bit of water we can save or rather, not waste, will help the environment in the long run
T-Shirt	<b>Su Clauson</b>	Bicycles don't produce noise and air pollution. They keep the rider in shape and allow him or her to blend in with the environment more than an internal combustion vehicles does. Some patrolling park employees should use bicycles whenever possible; they save gas, produce less noise, and observe more at the slower pace, all the while participating in a heart-strengthening fitness activity.
Honorable Mention	<b>Jonathan Pick</b>	When people make purchases at the park gift shops or cafeterias, they are sometimes given receipts that just get disposed of anyways. My suggestion is to only print out receipts if customer specifically asks for one.
Honorable Mention	<b>Ann Strauss</b>	All air conditioning systems need to be locked on 72; fire places need to be blocked from June to September 15th; all heating systems locked on 68; all outside lights should go off at sunrise and on at dusk; park rangers need smaller electric vehicles or air compression vehicles.
Honorable Mention	<b>Shepherd Bowen</b>	This tree is the highest in Dutch Elm Disease resistance, which is making a presence for itself in the large shade tree category. No other tree will get as large, as fast and be as environmentally tough as the Princeton. The Princeton also removes more CO <sup>2</sup> than any other tree in its category. The Princeton American Elm can grow 3' to 6' per year and has the unique upright vase shape which allows grasses and shrubs to grow well under its drip line. The Butter yellow fall color also makes the tree stand out in the landscape. This tree is so wonderful, that it was chosen by the USDA and US Park Service to be planted in front of the White House. Go to <a href="http://www.sharptoptree.com">www.sharptoptree.com</a> and click on the Princeton American Elm tab for more information.
Honorable Mention	<b>Robert Callahan, Jr.</b>	Live the eco-friendly experience. Take the environmental education experience live with a day trip and / or an over night experience. Connect the reasons and needs for eco-friendly systems in the Park with clean up walks of trails and water resources at early morning or evening and nights. Let's see the impact that visitors make, even visitors that are Park friendly. Connect the eco- systems of nature, wildlife and human recreation. Sleeping under the stars and listening to owls and other night sounds (some human). Learn to camp with minimum impact on the earth, do a quite walk at night, stay up late to see the stars and hear what nature does at night.
Honorable Mention	<b>Joyce Reavis</b>	We camp at the New River Trail - Millrace campground. We are trying to recycle as much as possible as a family. We saved all our aluminum cans and carried them home with us. I saw other people carrying their aluminum cans home as well. would have gladly put them in a recycling bin for aluminum if there had been one. My idea is to put three or four specially marked trash cans throughout the campsite so others can recycle their aluminum. It would also not cost the park very much money.
Honorable Mention	<b>Kim Shegog</b>	Infrared soap and water dispensers for all restrooms Hybrid vehicles for park personnel Solar panels for lighting in all buildings Print all park information on recyclable material (including passes, tickets, maps, pamphlets)

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Honorable Mention	Jess Trout	<p>Conserving Wildlife: I recently heard of a park staff member out West who puts up a specific type of sign on the roadway where bears have been killed by vehicles (a yellow bear sign I think) and the rangers mention the high numbers of fatalities and what the signs mean during their talks. Once people realize how many animals die (most often due to speed) they may be more willing to obey park speed limits.</p> <p>Conserving Nutrients: I would like to contribute to a park compost bin when we are camping. Some bins are made with foraging wildlife in mind and are designed in such a way as to discourage critters. It could be placed along the outskirts of the park so it doesn't lure animals into the campground.</p> <p>Teaching: We go to all of the park classes offered when we are camping but I wish there were more and with info. pertaining not only to our camping trip but to our home as well. Could there be a 'teaching garden' on the outskirts of the camp where rangers could teach visitors the basics of gardening such as propagation, when to plant/pick, natural alternatives to harsh fertilizers/pesticides. It is also vitally important for urban children to understand where their food is coming from and a small teaching garden would be a great classroom for them to experiment in during their stay. Many schools may be drawn to the campground for field trips if this was available to them as each school may not be able to have their own garden. I would also like to be taught more about native plants and would be willing to work planting, pruning, etc. (on park property) along with other visitors, this may encourage more pride and personal responsibility among visitors. Visitors could also be more useful than they currently are in identifying harmful species such as Gypsy Moths, etc. If the pest's photos/information are posted along the campground and visitors were asked to be vigilant for them during their hikes, the hikers could then report where they spotted the pests. Would this help the foresters to act more quickly in identifying new infestations? Lastly, we recently stayed at a KOA that was beautiful but offered no recycling bin that I could find. We drug our recycling home but that isn't feasible for many campers, like all of the folks on motorcycles. Every campground should at the very least, have a recycling bin.</p>
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